

# Oklahoma Law Review

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# OKLAHOMA LAW REVIEW

*In Memoriam: George B. Fraser*

Coalbed Methane: Myths, Facts, and  
Legends of Its History and  
the Legislative and Regulatory Climate  
into the 21st Century

*Elizabeth A. McClanahan*

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COMMENTS

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## LAW SCHOOL NEWS

*The Oklahoma Law Review is presently behind schedule. The Editorial Board continues to take the appropriate measures to bring the Review back on schedule. Because of the delay, however, the following Law School News is current through August 1996, despite the date of this issue. - Ed.*

**Administrative Staff:** Andrew M. Coats has been named Dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Coats served as the 1995-96 national President-Elect of the American College of Trial Lawyers, served as Oklahoma Bar Association President in 1992, and was the charter President of the American Board of Trial Advocacy of Oklahoma in 1986-87. Coats earned a bachelor's degree in history and English literature from the University of Oklahoma in 1957. In 1963, he graduated at the top of his class from the University of Oklahoma College of Law where he was named Outstanding Law Graduate for that year, selected as Order of the Coif, and named Phi Beta Kappa. Coats served as Oklahoma County District Attorney from 1976 to 1980 and Mayor of Oklahoma City from 1983 to 1987.

**Oklahoma Law Review:** The annual Law Review Awards Banquet was held on April 28, 1996. The Honorable Charles S. Chapel, Vice-Presiding Judge of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, served as keynote speaker. The following *Review* members were given awards: Timothy Wilson, Outstanding Comment Author; Charles Goodwin, Harry Alley-Leroy Allen Prize for Best Case Note; Jacqueline Ballinger and Matthew Maddox, Outstanding Note Editors; Anthony J. Jorgenson, Outstanding Editorial Board Member; and Richard L. Wynne, Outstanding Second Year Member.

The following members have been selected to the 1996-97 Editorial Board: Paige Stratton Bass, Editor-in-Chief; Richard L. Wynne, Managing Editor; Christa L. Britton, Chief Note Editor; Stacey D. Spivey, Chief Article and Book Review Editor; and William D. Fisher, Research Editor. The Editorial Board has appointed Lori Lindsey and Paige Queen as Assistant Managing Editors; Kimberly Cilke as Assistant Article and Book Review Editor; and Walter D. Miller as Indexing Editor. The following members have been selected as Note Editors: Erika Blomquist, Scott Briggs, Aditi Dravid, Charles Goodwin, Gina Henry, Don Howerton, Jeannie Pinkston, Jeff L. Todd, and Timothy Wilson.

A total of fourteen awards and honors were received by editors and members of the *Oklahoma Law Review* at the annual Law Day ceremonies held April 15, 1996. Paige S. Bass, 1996-97 Editor-in-Chief, received the James F. Hawes Memorial Cup Award and the Frank C. Love Memorial Scholarship. Richard L. Wynne, 1996-97 Managing Editor, was honored for participation on the National Moot Court Team. Stacey D. Spivey, 1996-97 Chief Article and Book Review Editor, received the McKinney, Stringer & Webster Scholarship and the Phillips Petroleum Scholarship. Kimberly Cilke, 1996-97 Assistant Article and Book Review Editor, along with Jana B. Bowman and James P. Muenker, were honored for participation on the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Moot Court Team. Aditi Dravid, 1996-97 Note Editor, was honored for participation on the Thomas Tang Asian Pacific American Law Students Association Moot Court Team which won the national competition. Don Howerton, 1996-96 Note Editor, received the Salem Civil Rights Award and was honored for participation on the Client Counseling

Competition Team. Jeff L. Todd, 1996-97 Note Editor, received the Cecil L. Hunt Memorial Scholarship and the Frank C. Love Memorial Scholarship. Finally, Eric C. Czerwinski received the Paul K. Frost II Memorial Award.

*Faculty:* Maureen Weston has been named an Associate Professor of Law beginning Fall 1996. Professor Weston was a visiting professor during the 1995-96 academic year. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado College of Law in May 1992. Prior to entering legal education, Professor Weston was an associate attorney with Holme, Roberts & Owen in Boulder, Colorado. She will be teaching Civil Procedure, Civil Litigation, Civil Pretrial Litigation, Disabilities Law, and Advanced Civil Procedure.

The College of Law welcomes Dongsheng Zang as the Crowe & Dunlevy Visiting International Scholar. Zang just completed his LL.M. graduate program at Harvard Law School and will be enriching our international law curriculum during the Fall 1996 semester, the twentieth anniversary of Crowe & Dunlevy support for this international law program. In 1994, Dongsheng Zang received his Masters Degree in Law with honors from the law school at the People's University of China, Beijing, P.R. China. Zang worked as a clerk for the judges in the Civil Tribunal of the Beijing People's Court and practiced international business law with one of the top law firms in China prior to being accepted by the prestigious Harvard International Law Program. He is the first international scholar to come to the University of Oklahoma from China. Zang will be teaching International Commercial Arbitration and a seminar on International Trade in the Asian-Pacific Rim.

Philip J. Prygoski has been named Visiting Professor of Law for the Fall 1996 semester. Prygoski joins the College of Law on sabbatical leave from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He received his Juris Doctor in 1973 from the University of Michigan Law School and an LL.M. in 1983 from the University of Michigan Law School. Prygoski has taught at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School since 1976 and has been a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School (1985) and the University of Tennessee College of Law (1992-93). He is the Director of the Michigan Indian Law Center and has been selected numerous times by the graduating classes at Thomas M. Cooley Law School for the Stanley E. Beattie Teaching Award. While at Tennessee, Prygoski was also recognized as the outstanding professor by vote of the students. He will be teaching Constitutional Law I and First Amendment (formerly Constitutional Law II).

Professor Peter B Kutner has been awarded a Fulbright Lectureship in Japan for the 1996-97 academic year. Professor Kutner will lecture at Tohoku University in Sendai. Tohoku University is affiliated with the Faculty of Law and the Department of American Studies.

Professor Joyce Dickey Palomar was named the Ada Louis Sipuel Fisher Presidential Professor of Law by a Faculty Committee of the University of Oklahoma. Seventeen Presidential Professorships were awarded to professors from the Health Science Center and Norman campuses who met the highest standards of excellence in scholarship and teaching.

Many faculty members continue to serve in leadership positions throughout the country. Among them, Professor Owen L. Anderson, Chair of the Natural Resources Section of the American Association of Law Schools, has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Eastern Mineral Law Foundation for 1996-97. Professor Drew L. Kershen serves as President of the American Agriculture Law



Association for 1996. Professor Michael Scaperlanda serves as Chair-Elect of the Association of American Law Schools Immigration Law Section. Finally, Professor David Swank has been reappointed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association Council to a three-year term as Chair of the NCAA Committee on Infractions.

**Students:** The College of Law Thomas Tang Asian Pacific American Law Students Association Moot Court Team won first place at the national competition. Team members included Aditi Dravid, *Oklahoma Law Review* Note Editor, Bonnie Richardson, and Kirti M. Vaidya.

## CUMULATIVE INDEX

The *Oklahoma Law Review* has a five-year cumulative index available for volumes 36-40 (1983-87). Previous indexes for volumes 31-35 (1978-82) and volumes 26-30 (1973-77) are available in limited quantities. The cost of each of these items is \$5 per copy. Send order to:

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